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20 December 1965



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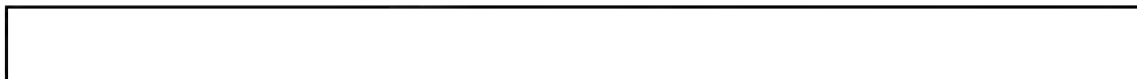
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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7. Notes: Dahomey; [REDACTED]

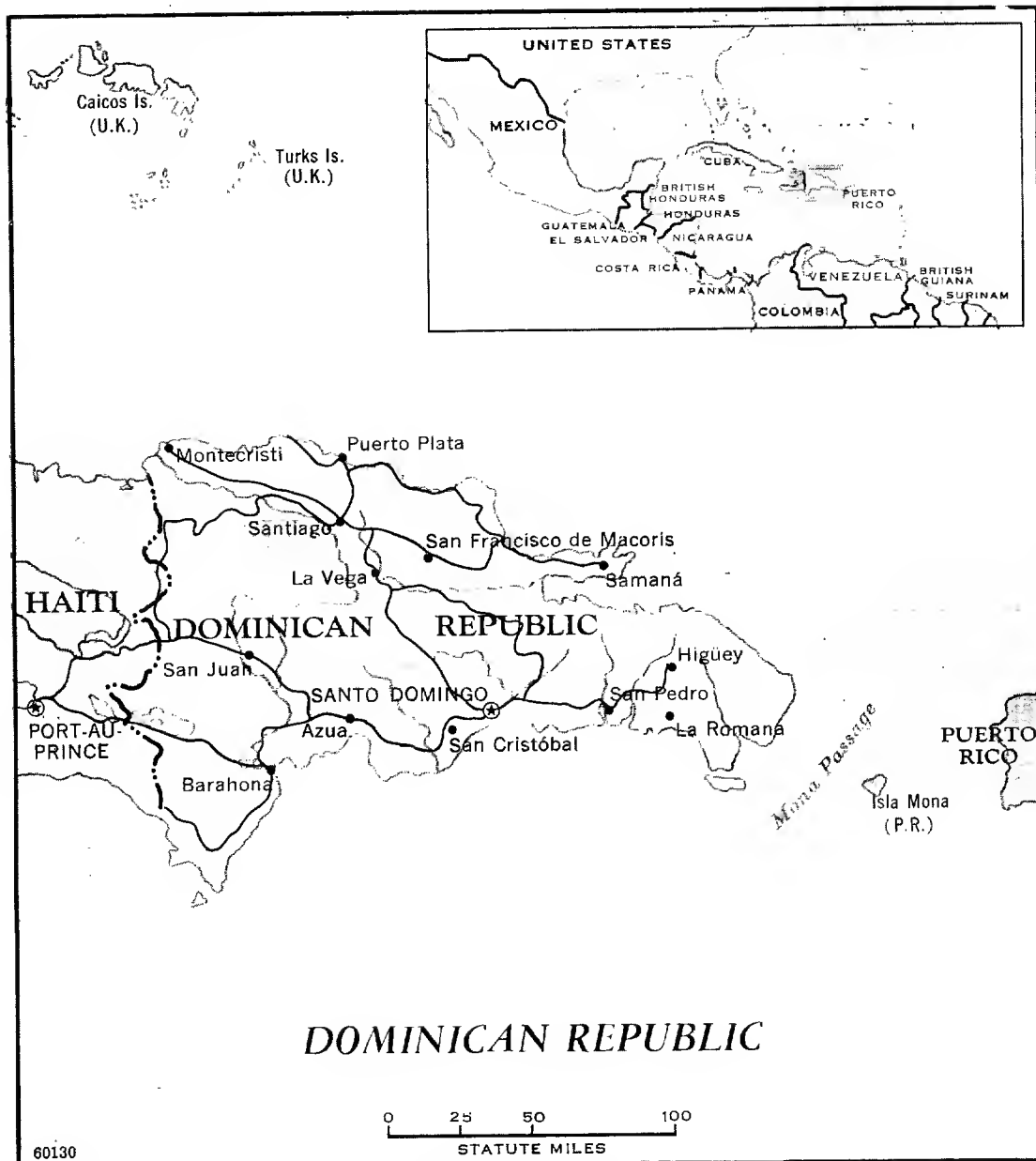
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*Dominican Republic: A serious firefight between ex-rebels, including Francisco Caamano Deno, and regular Dominican military forces broke out in Santiago yesterday.

The cause of the skirmish, which occurred during a rebel visit to the city, is obscure, but both sides appeared to be ready for a battle. After an initial exchange of fire Dominican Air Force troops surrounded the rebels in a hotel and subjected them to heavy fire. [Rebel losses were reportedly 12 dead, including former rebel chief of staff Juan Lora Fernandez, and six wounded; the Air Force admitted to "over" ten dead and six wounded. US citizens staying at the hotel were apparently briefly used as hostages by the rebels, but none were harmed.]

A company of US troops, acting as part of the Inter-American Peace Force (IAPF), was dispatched to the city and aided US consular officials in implementing a cease-fire. Some 35 rebels were evacuated by IAPF helicopters to Santo Domingo--the remaining rebels, including Caamano, are slated to be flown to the capital as weather clears this morning.

In Santo Domingo armed mobs, encouraged by leftist agitators, quickly took to the streets in a repetition of the turbulence that swept the capital on 16-17 December. However, a strong show of force by Dominican police and military forces, backed by IAPF patrols, dispersed the crowds.

Left wing leaders, including supporters of Juan Bosch, rapidly renewed demands that President Garcia Godoy sack the top military leadership and threatened a general strike today if their demands were not met. Such a strike would jeopardize the government's chances of consolidating its victory in last week's Christmas bonus strike.

Top military leaders once again supported the president, but Air Force chief Juan de los Santos' orders demanding the total capitulation of the rebels involved in the Santiago incident may put him in a precarious position.

(continued)

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[The Santiago Air Force commander has been removed as a result of his role in the incident and] Garcia Godoy, who has previously voiced suspicions about the loyalty of de los Santos, may take this occasion to replace him.

Yesterday's events underscore the continued bitterness between the two contending Dominican factions and renewed demonstrations and violence may re-occur to-day.

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Zambia-UK-Rhodesia: [The US ambassador in Zambia believes Britain's announcement of an oil embargo against Rhodesia presents a serious threat to Zambia's stability.]

[According to the ambassador, the "desperate nature of the UK's quick-kill policy" against Rhodesia led London to announce the embargo before adequate preparation had been made for an airlift of petroleum to Zambia. Rhodesia already had cut off petroleum supplies to Zambia, and Zambia has had to impose gasoline rationing. On 19 December the Rhodesian Government sharply increased taxes on coal and coke exported to Zambia.]

[These measures may encourage the "already skittish" European population to leave Zambia in sufficient numbers to cripple the economy. The ambassador and key British officials agree that there is "no more than a fifty-fifty chance" of maintaining stability in Zambia.]

[Zambia's President Kaunda apparently has been encouraged by some British officials to expect a "Berlin-type" airlift of supplies other than petroleum, which would enable his country to join in economic sanctions against Rhodesia. Kaunda has indicated to the US ambassador that he believes this is impossible without US assistance and he has probably instructed the mission he is sending to Washington to press hard for assurances that the US will meet critical Zambian needs.]

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*Indonesia: [Indonesian Army leaders are now apparently convinced that they have won the power struggle and they are preparing to move ahead with some basic policy changes.]

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[Indonesia's basic intentions toward Singapore and Malaysia remain unclear. There are obvious economic and political advantages to be realized from the restoration of normal relations. It is possible, however, that the army leaders intend replacing confrontation with a policy of exploiting tensions between Singapore and Malaysia and within the Federation of Malaysia itself.]

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[Army leaders apparently are also hopeful of re-establishing a sound relationship with the United States. There are indications that the army is not inclined to proceed at this critical juncture with earlier plans to

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nationalize US oil properties in Indonesia. Moreover, they have made it clear they would like the return of American dependents who were evacuated last October as evidence of the US Government's confidence in the Indonesian Army.]

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NOTES

Dahomey: [According to army chief Soglo, the army intends to take over the Congacou government this week and to hold power indefinitely. It has no plans for holding elections or for installing a civilian government. The French, who could prevent a military takeover, are apparently making no effort to do so. Since Soglo may be unable to retain leadership, an army coup of this nature increases the possibility that direction may be assumed by army commandant Alley in concert with leftist elements.]

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